

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 HUD-02 DRC-01 /100 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2084

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW

SUBJECT: FRG HOUSING MINISTER PUSHES FOR CONSTRUCTION
RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN BERLIN

REF: BONN 5719; BONN 5156; BONN 4180

1. AT THE APRIL 25 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FONOFF
REP (KASTRUP) REPORTED THAT FRG HOUSING MINISTER VOGEL
HAD WRITTEN TO MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO EGON BAHR
TO ASK IF HE THOUGHT SITUATION WAS NOW RIPE FOR
ESTABLISHING CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CRI) IN
WEST BERLIN. KASTRUP SAID BAHR HAD REPLIED THAT HE
SAW "NO POSSIBILITY OF RECOMMENDING ITS ESTABLISHMENT
TO YOU NOW. I HAVE, HOWEVER, ASKED THAT THE THREE
ALLIES BE CONSULTED." KASTRUP ASKED FOR ALLIED VIEWS.

2. THE UK REP (CROMARTIE) SAID HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT
THE SITUATION WAS IF ANYTHING WORSE NOW THAN LAST
OCTOBER WHEN ALLIES FIRST EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS
ABOUT SETTING UP CRI IN WEST BERLIN. OTHER AGREED IT
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WOULD SEEM POLITICALLY QUITE UNWISE AT A TIME WHEN

SOVIET/GDR REACTION TO THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY
BY NO MEANS CERTAIN.

3. KASTRUP THEN SAID VOGEL HAD WONDERED, IF AN
INDEPENDENT CRI WERE NOT ADVISABLE, WHETHER THE
INSTITUTE COULD BE ATTACHED TO THE ALREADY EXISTING
(SINCE 1958) BUNDESBANDIREKTION (BBD) IN BERLIN.
ADMINISTRATIVELY, KASTRUP EXPLAINED, VOGEL SAW THIS
SECOND MODEL AS PART OF THE BBD, BUT WITH MANY INDE-
PENDENT FUNCTIONS. (HE ADDED FOR BACKGROUND
INFORMATION THAT THE BBD WAS COMPETENT FOR CONSTRUCTION
ACTIVITIES OF ALL CONSTITUTIONAL ORGANS OF THE FRG
EXCEPT THOSE UNDER THE COMPETENCE OF THE DEFENSE
MINISTRY.) KASTRUP ASKED FOR ALLIED VIEWS ON THIS
REVISED MODEL, NOTING IN PASSING THAT FONOFF WORKING
LEVEL VIEW WAS THAT IT WAS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT
FROM THE EARLIER PROPOSAL.

4. ALLIED REPS AGREED TO REPORT TO CAPITALS, BUT THEIR
INITIAL VIEW WAS THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY FURTHER
INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT THROW A DIFFERENT LIGHT ON
THE PROPOSALS, NEITHER SEEMED ADVISABLE OR ACCEPTABLE.

5. COMMENT: KASTRUP'S RATHER CURIOUS PRESENTATION
SEEMED TO USERY MUCH FOR-THE-RECORD-ONLY : HE WAS
AT PAINS TO CLEARLY POINT OUT THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS
OF THE PROPOSALS, AND SEEMED ONLY INTERESTED IN A
FAIRLY RAPID, NEGATIVE RESPONSE WHICH THE CHANCELLERY
WOULD THEN PRESUMABLY PASS ON TO VOGEL. WE SEE NO
REASON NOT TO OBLIGE. END COMMENT.

6. ALLIED REPS ALSO THANKED KASTRUP FOR THE TIMELY
AND (SO FAR) CONFIDENTIAL WAY WE HAD BEEN CONSULTED
ON THIS QUESTION. THE FONOFF REP SAID HE BELIEVED IT
INDICATED A GROWING AWARENESS ON THE PART OF OTHER FRG
MINISTRIES OF THE CURRENT SENSITIVITIES INVOLVING
FEDERAL OFFICES IN BERLIN. HE ALSO NOTED HE WAS
AWARE OF RELATIVELY SHORT TIME BEFORE BUNDESTAG BUDGET
COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE CRI (REF A).

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